

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. - 14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) A method of analyzing contents of an ampoule, the ampoule containing a sample and a reagent which changes color when a predetermined level of biological activity is present in the sample, said method comprising:

- a) recording a maximum intensity of light transmitted through said ampoule by transmitting light at a predetermined wavelength at regular intervals and identifying when said intensity of light transmitted through said ampoule stops increasing;
- b) identifying a first time;
- c) transmitting light at the predetermined wavelength through said ampoule;
- d) identifying an end time relative to said first time at which an intensity of said light transmitted at said predetermined wavelength through the ampoule is at a predetermined percentage of said maximum intensity of light; and
- e) automatically determining from said end time a level of biological activity present in the sample at said first time.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) A method according to claim 15, wherein:

said predetermined wavelength is 565 nm.

18. (original) A method according to claim 15, wherein:

said transmitting light transmits light axially through said ampoule.

19. (original) A method according to claim 15, wherein:

said automatically determining includes referencing a look-up table in a memory.

20. (original) A method according to claim 15, further comprising:

g) heating the ampoule to or near a target temperature.

21. (original) A method according to claim 20, wherein:

said target temperature is approximately between 32 and 37 °C.

22. (original) A method according to claim 20, wherein:

said first time is set when said ampoule is heated to or near said target temperature.

23. - 26. (canceled)